

Feb 14, 2011

Josie Krause
Fatzo's
1421 S. 10th St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Secretary Jennifer Johnson
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Secretary Johnson:

The fees the restaurant I own must pay to our debit card processing company are outrageous. It is becoming impossible for my small business to keep up with the amount I owe, let alone understand all the individual charges. Regulations need to be placed on the processing companies, since so many of my customers are dependent on paying with some sort of debit or credit card. This is why I hope the Federal Reserve will implement the current ruling calling for a limit on debit card transaction fees.

I have run this establishment for the past six and a half years. Like most retail businesses here, we are experiencing a slow-down in customers. This has taken a toll on my personal income. Since I have three kids to support, paying my bills has not been easy. Recently, I was able to renegotiate my swipe fee rate down to twenty-three cents per transaction, but that was as low as my processing company was willing to go despite my threats to move my business to another organization.

In addition to the swipe fees I pay each month on debit card usage, I also must pay a percentage of each debit card transaction back to the processing company. This monthly amount can often be upwards of two hundred dollars or more. There are also numerous other fee charges. Regulation of the credit and debit card processing companies is an absolute necessity, especially if small retailers like me are going to be able to afford to offer this service to their customers. Please support this ruling.

Thank you,

Josie Krause